

GORE-CHERNOMYRDIN COMMISSION

December 15-16, 1994

S&T COMMITTEE

SCOPE PAPER

Strategic Objectives

- Contribute to enhanced stability and strengthened democratization in Russia through the establishment of a strong foundation for supporting civilian science and technology
- Strengthen U.S. capabilities in science and technology through mutually beneficial cooperative programs
- Ensure that science and technology contribute effectively, as appropriate, to advancing the goals and objectives of all Gore-Chernomyrdin Committees

Meeting Objectives

- Identify administrative barriers to cooperation, and develop specific actions to reduce or eliminate such barriers
- Conclude new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to support agency-to-agency cooperation in major areas of interest to the U.S., with a focus on those that contribute to the strategic objectives of the Committee
- Evaluate progress to date by reviewing the status of activities implemented through the seven MOUs previously signed under the S&T Agreement

Key Issues

- 1) Civilian R&D Foundation. Perhaps the most critical, and highly visible, issue is U.S. funding for the US-Russia Civilian R&D Foundation. The Vice President has announced in public twice that the U.S. would be providing funds for this purpose, but implementation remains blocked due to questions raised by DOD lawyers. A summary of the R&D Foundation and related issues is attached.
- 2) Administrative Barriers to Cooperation. The working group under the S&T Committee established to address these issues has a challenging agenda, and will require significant support at top levels in both governments if we are to succeed. On both sides, we will need to overcome entrenched bureaucratic mechanisms to improve: a) access to sensitive areas; b) granting of multiple entry visas; c) taxes, duties and tariffs for scientific exchanges; and d) implementation of the IPR annex to the S&T Agreement.

- 3) **Multidisciplinary Projects.** Implementation of large-scale multidisciplinary programs will require the cooperation of several federal agencies and GCC Committees. Examples include the Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate program, the Space Biomedical Center, and the Telecommunications Initiative.

Progress to Date: Program Successes

Since the establishment of the S&T Committee under this Commission, we have signed seven Memoranda of Understanding. The activities, and the on-the-ground impact of these agreements, have been impressive. A brief summary of the status of each MOU is attached.

Committee Priorities for the Future

The S&T Committee will build on the recent success of the Working Group on General Problems of S&T Cooperation, under the S&T Committee, to focus on removing barriers to expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Russia.

The Working Group on General Problems of S&T Cooperation will focus over the next year on five key areas: customs, tariffs and taxes; access to sensitive areas; multiple entry visas; implementation of the IPR annex to the S&T Agreement; and developing an operational network of contacts for each focus area.

- o On Customs, Tariffs and Taxes, the working group agreed to produce a coordinated description of the process for obtaining tax and duty exemptions for cooperative S&T activities. These descriptions will be widely distributed within the U.S. and Russian governments.
- o On Access to Sensitive Areas the working group developed, and will work to get full governmental approval for, a procedure for research vessel clearance, a significant step forward in our relationship. Both sides agreed to work toward a better understanding of the Russian interagency process for reviewing approval of visits by U.S. government officials and scientists to Russian labs and facilities.
- o We have also made significant progress on the issue of Multiple Entry Visas, and both sides agreed to provide detailed information regarding procedures and requirements for issuance of such visas.
- o Finally, we have started a good dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights, confirming the importance of the IPR annex to the S&T Agreement. We agreed to facilitate implementation of the IPR annex through an open dialogue to clarify interpretation of any phrases or terminology as needed. A report of the first meeting of the Working Group is attached.

Desired Outcome

To sign two new agreements (ATOC and Space Biomedical Center), issue a GCC joint statement on telecommunications, and announce the establishment of the civilian R&D Foundation.

Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (ATOC)

Objective: To create a sensitive method of measuring early signs of climate change. This is accomplished through the use of deep ocean acoustic transmissions, measuring travel times over large distances to yield average ocean temperature. The MOU, initialled by Minister Saltykov and Dr. Gibbons, will be signed for the U.S. by Secretary of Defense William Perry, and for Russia by Minister of Science Saltykov and Deputy Minister of Defense Kokohsin.

Space Biomedical Research Center

Objective: To integrate the products of space biomedical research into practical applications for improving health care services; to serve as a catalyst for opening new markets for Western investments in Russia in the areas of prosthetics, aerospace medicine, space biology and microgravity sciences, internal medicine, medical informatics and telemedicine, biotechnology and public health issues. The Memorandum of Intent will be signed by NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and representatives on the Russian side from the Ministry of Science and Russian Space Agency.

Telecommunications

Objective: To raise the visibility of U.S.-Russian cooperation on telecommunications by issuing a joint statement of intent at the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. The statement will provide a catalyst to develop a comprehensive telecommunications initiative with Russia, with the Business Development Committee and the S&T Committee working together to develop and implement an effective program of cooperation.

Civilian R&D Foundation

Objective: To support the development of a sound, merit-based system for supporting science and technology, and to create a civilian S&T infrastructure into which former weapons scientists can be integrated. NSF has prepared a draft charter, and identified a qualified legal firm to accomplish the legal steps necessary to establish the Foundation immediately upon receipt of the funds from DOD.

Attachments:

- 1) Summary of US-Russia Civilian R&D Foundation
- 2) MOUs: summary of progress to date
- 3) Meeting Report: Working Group on General Problems of S&T Cooperation

